

National Congress Bulletin



JANUARY 1960 • PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO 11 • VOL. 27, NO. 5

Dear P.T.A. President:

» 1960—how strange it will sound to us for a while. How many times will we unintentionally write last year's date on our letters? Yet with 1960 we have begun not only a new year but a new decade. That decade is ours; the clean slate, the spotless page are ready for our writing. What will we write? The query is as old as time but as current as today. To our great good fortune we have a choice of what to write—and an opportunity to inscribe some portion of history worthy of reading and remembering.

» I trust that by now your term of office is one that will be good to record. Moreover, there is an almost certain chance that your membership is larger than it has been in the past and that this news, and its accounting, has been sent to the National Congress. By now, too, your program, planned months ago, is beginning to prove its effectiveness.

» As we think of our progress we realize that January 1960 is not a new year for us; that it is almost the mid-point in our P.T.A. labors; and that now, or surely next month, we must take a few moments to check whether we are where we should be in this period of our stewardship.

» In several ways the first four months of our school year have been nationally noteworthy and newsworthy. There was the visit by the premier of Russia, who took a cursory glance at the United States. I wish he could have visited a

good P.T.A., one that actively demonstrates the close relationship between home and school, showing how parents and teachers do cooperate intelligently in the training of each child.

» Then there was the questioning of quizzers and the ultimate question, What about TV? You will read more about this in "Truth or Consequences" in the January issue of the "National Parent-Teacher."

» More recently has come the cranberry crisis. Here we reacted not only to the idea that a minor disturbance was interfering with a national tradition but also to the fact that "ground rules" made expressly for our protection had been disobeyed. We were concerned about the effect of this revelation on the innocent as well as the guilty. (I've made up my mind to triple my intake of cranberries in January, to try to tilt the scales in favor of those growers who accepted sensible rulings.)

» Finally, of profound importance was the world-circling trip of the President of the United States, undertaken in the interests of peace.

» What an exciting segment of 1959! And now here is 1960.

» Let me confide in you, all 44,500 of you, what I believe you, as leaders in the parent-teacher organization, could do to start this decade well:

» Your program is well arranged, I know—the speakers, the panels, the reports of action committees, the demonstrations. But because each of the important events I have recalled to you is closely allied to the ethical standards that are part of our national convictions, the spiritual values that are our heritage, I suggest in all earnestness that every meeting of your association include a few moments dedicated to the uplift of mind and spirit. There may be a prayer, an opening quotation from inspirational poetry or prose, or a slow, thoughtful reading of our Objects. Such moments, set apart for personal meditation, enable us better to express our sincerity and devotion to the welfare of children and to this nation.

» May the P.T.A. continue to be an instrument of peace and of our progress.

Sincerely yours,

Kaula C. Parker

MRS. JAMES C. PARKER, President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers



» Mrs. Parker arrives in Dallas for the golden jubilee convention of the Texas Congress.

P.T.A. COMMUNICATION LINES: Incoming—Outgoing

COMMUNICATION is basic to successful parent-teacher work. We are constantly obtaining and imparting facts about children's needs; exchanging ideas and information in order to help families, schools, and communities meet these needs. Every P.T.A., therefore, should have many lines of communication, both outgoing and incoming. Some are already installed for us. Others we must establish for ourselves.

- Each year we have to reach out to the parents of every school child, to teachers and school administrators, and to other adults in our school neighborhood in order to bring them into our association.

- Why should a person join a P.T.A.? To explain the values of our organization and the benefits of being a participating member is a job of communication. We rely strongly on three of our committees—membership, publicity, and hospitality—to accomplish this. They use many means of communication: newspaper, radio, and TV publicity; membership leaflets; letters of invitation; telephone calls; and personal visits. If we are successful in communicating the importance and values of parent-teacher work, our unit will have a large, interested membership.

Two-Way "Talk"

- But we have to do more than arouse interest in the P.T.A. To sustain it and to develop an active, participating membership, we have to do a continuous job of communication. Officers, committee chairmen, room representatives, and program, hospitality, and publicity committees—all share responsibility for developing and sustaining members' interest in our work.

- If attendance at meetings and participation in activities are low, we ought to examine our lines of communication. Maybe there's been a breakdown somewhere. Maybe we are using the outgoing line too much and failing to receive incoming messages. Effective communication involves listening as well as talking.

- Good leaders are usually good listeners. They are eager to hear about members' opinions, suggestions, ideas,

interests, and concerns, for these are the basis for a program of work that attracts participation. We can also use questionnaires, opinion surveys, suggestion boxes, and other devices to encourage communication from members.

Putting Up New Lines

- To find out the needs of children, we have to stretch our lines of communication throughout the community. We have to establish contacts with other community groups and agencies that are concerned with children and families. We should be in touch, for example, with the school board, juvenile court, safety council, public health and welfare departments, youth-serving groups, churches, police department, recreation agencies, and family service and other social service agencies. We should know what they are doing, and they should know what we are doing. We need to exchange information about children and the community's resources to serve them. If all the needs of all the children in our community are to be met, we must have full exchanges of information and close cooperative efforts by all groups. Good two-way communication is essential to cooperation.

- Committee chairmen provide an invaluable communication service by establishing friendly contacts with other groups and with professional personnel. If there is a community coordinating council, participation in the council gives a parent-teacher association an excellent channel of communication and cooperation.

Is the Line Busy?

- Other lines of communication, too, are vital to successful P.T.A. work. We might call them the "intercom system" of the parent-teacher organization. They link your unit with the council, the district, or region, and also with the state congress and the National Congress. A task of every parent-teacher leader is to keep these lines buzzing steadily.

- For example, as a local president, you are a delegate from your unit to the council. Thus you yourself are an important channel of communication between the two. To the council you take your unit's ideas, problems, and

suggestions. From the council you bring back to your unit information, ideas, and inspiration.

- You also link your unit closely to the state congress. You receive from the congress mailings of timely materials and important information (some of it from the National Congress), to be shared with your officers, chairmen, and members. Your annual report in turn carries vital information to the state congress and from the state congress to the National Congress. This information from you helps the state congress and the National Congress to develop services to strengthen the work of local units.

Nation-wide Hookup

- State bulletins, state conventions, and regional and district meetings are other avenues of two-way communication. This *Bulletin* and *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine* are means of communication between your unit and your national officers and chairmen, other local units, and the state branches. So is our national convention. Through sharing of information and planning, we build better, stronger action programs in the community, the state, and the nation.

- Communication is something we work at constantly throughout the year. But there is one special occasion on which we all have an unusually fine opportunity to communicate with the public. That occasion is our Founders Day meeting, for no matter how hard we work, we cannot achieve all our high goals without widespread public support of our efforts. But the public can't support what it doesn't know about. Founders Day, then, is an occasion for publicizing our program and its tremendous importance to children, families, and the community.

- Good communication, therefore, has consequences. It can create an upsurge of interest in our organization and its work. It can win for us the cooperation of more and more of our fellow citizens. It can strengthen and accelerate our program of service to the family and the community. It can demonstrate that ours is an organization through which men and women turn their concern for children into tangible achievements.

Fifty Years of Boy Scout Service



On February 8, 1960, when the Boy Scouts of America reaches its half century mark, it will be able to score an enrollment of more than five million Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Explorers, and adult

leaders. By the end of 1960, it expects to have on record that more than 33,500,000 different persons have been affiliated since 1910.

Scouting's Golden Jubilee Year will include a special observance of Boy Scout Week, February 7-13, and the Fifth National Scout Jamboree at Colorado Springs, Colorado, July 22-28.

Eighteenth Decennial Census

IN APRIL 1960 the Eighteenth Decennial Census of the United States will be taken in every section of the country. Hoping to make this the most accurate census ever taken, the Bureau of the Census believes that many citizens would like to know what is entailed in preparing for a census, what questions they will be asked, and how their answers will be used. Therefore the Bureau has prepared an interesting and informative talk designed to be given as a whole or in selected parts at meetings of P.T.A.'s and other community organizations.

If your P.T.A. desires this material—it is free—send your request to the Public Information Office, Bureau of the Census, Washington 25, D. C. Ask for the "Women's Club Kit." With your name and address, the Census Bureau requests that you give the name of your group and the approximate number of persons who will hear the talk.

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PLANNED FOR YOU — In Philadelphia NATIONAL CONGRESS CONVENTION, May 22 - 25



© Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau

- Philadelphia's skyline, as viewed from the Art Museum on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

MAY 22 to 25—have you checked these dates in red pencil on your new 1960 calendar? Although May seems a long way off, it's not too early to start, right now, making plans to be a part of the year's biggest P.T.A. event—the sixty-fourth annual convention of the National Congress.

The National Congress is making plans too—plans to ensure a convention that will be worthwhile and interesting. As in previous years, the convention will provide the information and inspiration that will give P.T.A. leaders and members a fresh outlook for their work in behalf of children and youth.

Speaking of plans, you'll want to plan to spend a few days before or after the convention getting acquainted with Philadelphia. If you remember your early American history, you know about the many sights to be seen there. If your memory is rusty, you'll refresh it as you stroll around that picturesque city. Philadelphia's points of interest are not only historical, so watch for more details about the convention city as well as about the convention program in future issues of the *Bulletin*.

"READING OUT LOUD" ON TV

► A TV series called *Reading Out Loud*, designed to point up to parents and children the pleasures and benefits of reading aloud in the home, will begin this month.

Produced by the Westinghouse Broadcasting Company in cooperation with the American Library Association, the series will feature well-known persons reading favorite stories and poems to their own children, their grandchildren, or friends' and neighbors' children.

Pulitzer Prize Winner Archibald MacLeish, for instance, will read poems by Walter de la Mare to his four grandchildren; José Ferrer will share Mark

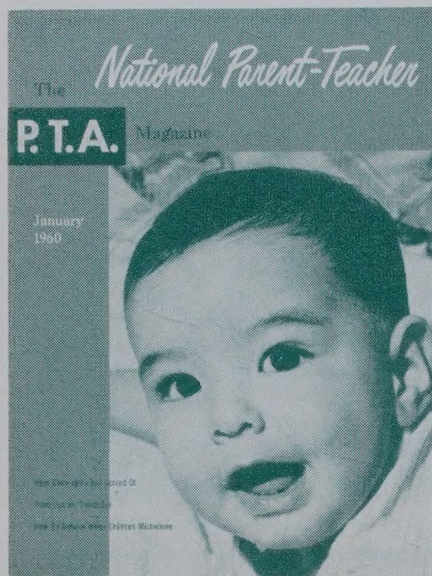
Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* with his children; Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt will read one of the *Just So Stories* by Kipling.

Starting the third week in January, *Reading Out Loud* will be telecast on stations WJZ-TV, Baltimore; WBZ-TV, Boston; KDKA-TV, Pittsburgh; KPIX-TV, San Francisco; and KYW-TV, Cleveland. The series will be seen also on fifty-four educational stations, and kinescopes of the shows will be available at a later date for use by organizations and groups.

Watch your local newspaper for information on when the programs can be seen in your community.

A Message to Local Presidents . . .

TV EVALUATIONS — "Worth Their Weight in Gold"



IN SEPTEMBER the *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine* inaugurated a new feature, planned to fill a widely and deeply felt need—the need for a family guide to better TV viewing. In introducing the new service in the September issue, Mrs. Eva H. Grant, the editor, wrote: "P.T.A. members . . . want to know what is worth viewing and what isn't, what is wholesome entertainment and what isn't. We intend to give them the guidance they seek."

The announcement of *National Parent-Teacher's* decision to evaluate TV programs was much publicized, pro-and-con, in the nation's press. And in the months since then, the TV evaluations have been hailed, reported, and quoted in newspaper and magazine articles, in the columns of TV critics, and in numerous editorials.

Enthusiastic, too, and even more gratifying, has been the response from P.T.A. members. These days *National Parent-Teacher's* mail bag bulges with letters like these:

● "The TV evaluations are just what many of our parent-teacher members have been looking for."

● "As the father of seven children, four of whom are still in grade and high school, I wish to express appreciation for the new 'Evaluations of TV Programs' department recently added to your magazine."

● "I applaud 'Time Out for Television,' and I hope it will continue to be a regular feature ad infinitum. It is almost impossible

for a busy parent to screen all the TV shows. A guide such as this is worth its weight in gold ten times over—particularly for children under eleven."

● "As chairman of character and spiritual education, I am most grateful for the TV evaluations. Especially commendable is the gentle, gracious, though compelling tone in which they are written."

● "I am so glad the National Congress of Parents and Teachers has taken a stand to help clean up the no-good programs that are presented on television. The children and adults of this country could be offered no better service."

Yes, there's no doubt that "Evaluations of TV Programs" are eagerly welcomed, because they are meeting a long-felt need.

But now we come to a crucial question: *How many P.T.A. members and how many other people* who don't belong to the association are not yet acquainted with this helpful service—are perhaps not even acquainted with the P.T.A. magazine? Because the officers and board of directors of The National Parent-Teacher and the members of the National Congress Board of Managers believe so strongly in the worth of our magazine, and because they want to make sure that every family up and down the street and highway knows about the magazine's newest service to parents, "Evaluations of TV Programs," they are calling on you for help. They are asking:

Will you, with your magazine chairman, take responsibility for making sure that every family sees the *National Parent-Teacher* and has opportunity to subscribe to it? Will you alert members to the "Evaluations of TV Programs" and to the *National Parent-Teacher's* many

other fine features? Will you cooperate in every way possible with your local magazine and publicity chairmen to promote wider use of the magazine?

Here, for example, are some of the things you might do:

- Take time out at your meetings—if only a few minutes—to call attention to current TV evaluations.
- Display copies of the magazine at every P.T.A. meeting.
- Have a subscription committee on hand ready to take subscriptions.
- Have members of the magazine committee call on members at their homes to tell about this new service.
- Work out attractive methods of exhibiting the TV evaluations at your meetings. (Watch for them to touch off some lively discussions.)

By doing these things—and others that you and your magazine chairman will think of—you will be performing a valuable service for all children and youth and for your own P.T.A.

One final question—*do you* subscribe to *National Parent-Teacher* or does your P.T.A. subscribe for you? If you can't answer YES to this question, won't you please put the subscription blank below to good use? Start receiving the magazine that is published to help you, not only in your job as a parent but also in your important role as a P.T.A. leader.

MRS. CLIFFORD N. JENKINS
Chairman, The National Parent-Teacher
First Vice-president, National Congress
of Parents and Teachers

Subscription Blank

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
\$1.50 a year—U.S. and possessions
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NAME _____

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ASSOCIATION _____

Send check or money order to **NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER, 700 North Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois**

The Eyes of the World



P.T.A. MEMBERS have always known how important the *National Parent-Teacher* is to the work of the National Congress. It is heartening, however, to see the evidence mount that people outside our great organization, too, appreciate the value and function of our official magazine. The following quotation is one such evidence. It is taken from an editorial in the *Portland (Maine) Press Herald* for October 29.

"There are signs . . . that P.T.A.'s are more and more coming to do the job they can do best, namely to focus nonprofessional minds on school problems in a way that will lead to their solution.

"P.T.A. is more than an opportunity to consume cider and doughnuts with Junior's teacher or to raise money for equipment items which ought to come from tax funds. It is above all a forum in which parents, if they are willing to listen, discuss, and learn, can sharpen their knowledge of how to give schools, and thus their own children, the basic improvements they need rather than fringe stuff like a slide projector or a new swing.

"P.T.A.'s proper mission concerns something else: teacher quality, school financing, curriculum content and balance, college entrance, guidance, health, handling gifted and retarded pupils, and so on. These . . . have no entertainment value but they have substance, and the 'fun' in them lies in the enjoyment of hard work and the satisfaction of progressive results.

"Fortunately, we say, it is in this direction that P.T.A.'s are perceptibly turning, and more power to the leadership that is responsible. On our desk as this is written, for example, is the P.T.A.'s national magazine for September. . . . The magazine contains provocative articles about school fire safety, the problems of ability grouping, today's teen-agers as tomorrow's parents, the assault of mailed pornography on young morals, and a challenging essay by Max Lerner. In its regular departments, with brutal if amusing candor, it assails the ramparts of juvenile television offerings as well as today's movies."

These perceptive comments, and others like them printed every day from Portland, Maine, to Portland, Oregon, show clearly that the world sees the *National Parent-Teacher* not only as a reflection of the National Congress at its best but as an interpretation of parent-teacher activity. Our thanks to the editorial page of the *Press Herald* for this well-informed tribute to both the National Congress and its official magazine.

BUZZ SESSIONS ON NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER

- To help promote the wider use of the *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine*, the vice-presidents from the eight regions of the National Congress consented to take on special promotional responsibilities in each of their regions.

During the fall meeting of the Board of Managers, the vice-presidents were

asked to report on their magazine activities. To prepare the reports, buzz sessions were held, with Board members dividing into groups according to their home regions. All the reports given later before the reassembled Board contained helpful suggestions, but the one from Region II won the laurels for liveliness.

- The Board members from Region VII come up with ideas on how the "National Parent-Teacher" can be introduced into more homes. Mrs. George Tonkin, Jr., vice-president from the region, is second from left.



- Board members from Region II emphasize values of the "team approach" to magazine promotion. As members of the football team, they build up their score of "touchdown ideas" on signals from the "coach," Mrs. Cecil S. Garey, vice-president from Region II (upper right).

Progress Report: THE FIGHT AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY

MRS. JAMES C. PARKER, president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, is one of nine distinguished citizens who were appointed by Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield as a committee to help him determine whether or not literature is mailable where questions of obscenity arise. The committee, which is in no way a censorship body, had its first meeting December 15.

The appointment of this Citizens Advisory Committee on Literature marks another step in the consolidation of efforts to knock out "mail-order" pornography. The National Congress at its 1959 convention voted to support the Postmaster General's plan for checking the torrential flood of pornographic

materials going through the mails, and, like the other organizations represented on the committee, it will not lessen its efforts until this threat to the well-being of our nation's children is eliminated.

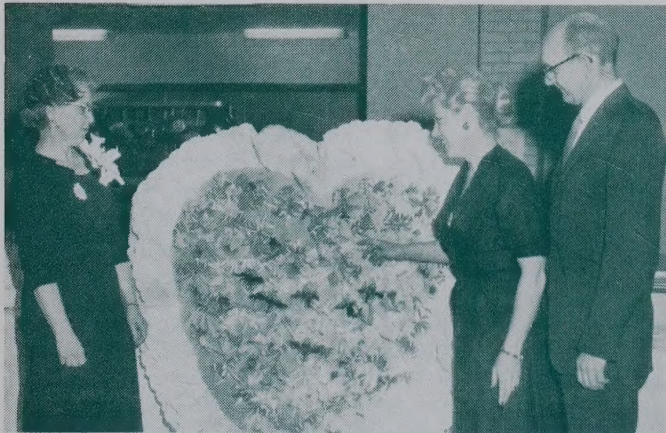
The *National Parent-Teacher* has carried two articles on this subject: "Pornography—The New Black Plague" (September 1959) and "Something Is Being Done About Pornography" by the Honorable Estes Kefauver (November 1959). Other articles are scheduled to appear in the future.

It is for all of us to remember, however, as Senator Kefauver pointed out in his article, that "the burden of this problem . . . rests with the community itself and particularly with the P.T.A. and other civic groups."

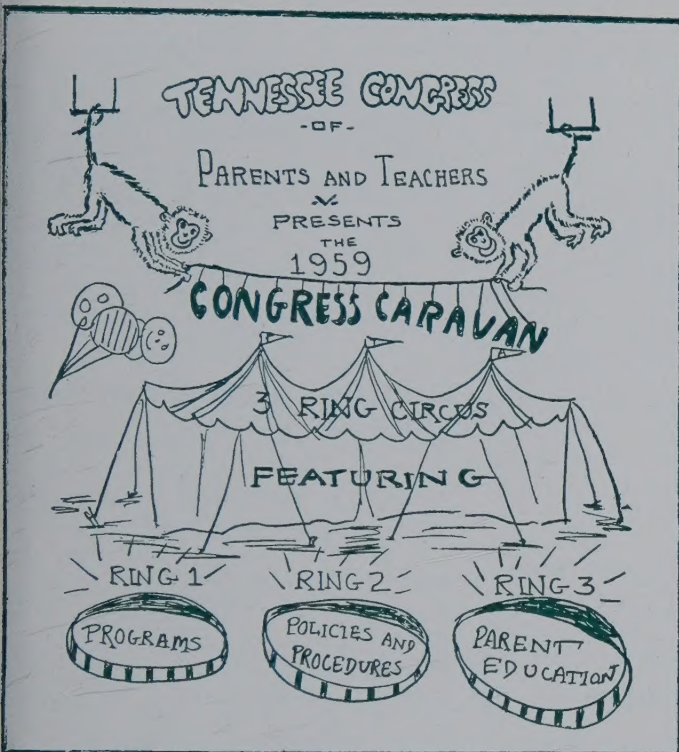
PTA. BULLETIN BOARD

BRIEF ITEMS OF CURRENT INTEREST

FOR AND ABOUT P.T.A.'S

- **THE NAME** of the Park Lane School in Trumbull, Connecticut, was recently changed to Jane Ryan School, in honor of its principal. The idea of so honoring her was conceived by the P.T.A., and with the help of Miss Ryan's former students a well-signed petition requesting the name change was presented to the board of education. Miss Ryan has been in the Trumbull school system since 1927—twenty-nine of the years as a principal.
 - **"PROBLEMS OF YOUTH"** were subject to analysis by a panel composed of a juvenile officer, a psychiatrist, and a pediatrician at a meeting of the Ponce de Leon Junior High School (Dade County, Florida). After the discussion, members of the panel took their turns in answering audience-submitted questions.
 - **A PROGRAM TITLED "RETARDED CHILDREN"** put on by the Batesville P.T.A. (Indiana) was judged especially timely and worthwhile, because the community is trying to organize a special school for children thus handicapped. The film *Tuesday's Child*, included on the program, was followed up by a guest speaker.
 - **ORCHIDS FOR THE TEACHERS** were prominent at the Founders Day reception of the Stroud Union High School P.T.A. (Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania). As each teacher answered the roll call, he or she, accompanied by his or her spouse, received a beautiful corsage of orchids, which were grown and donated by a parent member who is an orchid hobbyist.
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- Among the teachers who were presented with an orchid at a Founders Day reception of the Stroud Union Junior-Senior High School P.T.A. was Mrs. Margaret Smith (left), who was also the unit's first president. On the right are Mrs. Robert R. Hellmann, P.T.A. president at that time, and Alfred Munson, principal.
 - **SIXTY COPIES** of the Action Program pamphlet, *Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness*, were ordered by the Manawa P.T.A. (Wisconsin) to be distributed among its members. Wrote Mrs. LeRoy Luetscher, in placing the order: "The pamphlet is very good, and we feel that as many families as possible should be able to have it."
 - **A SERIES OF LECTURES** especially for parents—P.T.A. members and others—given by Fritz Redl, chief of the Child Research Branch of the National Institute of Mental Health, was sponsored by the District of Columbia Congress, in cooperation with the Washington School of Psychiatry. Dr. Redl covered four thought-provoking topics: "Are We Worrying About the Right Things?" "On Setting Limits and Making Them Stick," "Pre-adolescents—What Makes Them Tick," and "Teen-agers of Today—and Their Problem with Us."
 - **UNDER THE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROGRAM** of the Creighton (Phoenix, Arizona) School District, children are trained at the earliest possible age to cross streets safely. With P.T.A. parents assisting in the training, children are encouraged to make their own decisions at crossings under the watchful eyes of an adult. After three years of emphasis on pedestrian safety, patrols and crossing guards were dispensed with by one of the schools—the children, it was decided, had acquired "built-in protection."
 - **PARENTS' NIGHTS**, one for each class, were sponsored by the Central High P.T.A. (Omaha, Nebraska) during September. Large attendance at the meetings was attributed to the activities of the newly formed telephone committee-of-100. Each committee member has a permanent list of 25 families whom he calls three days before each P.T.A. meeting to issue a personal invitation.
 - **A UNIT IN MAINE**—Woodland P.T.A., Washington County—combined forces with a unit of the Canadian Home and School and Parent-Teacher Federation to hold a joint program, during which teaching methods and materials and the philosophy of education in the two countries were explained and compared.
 - **THE WHOLE FAMILY**—from toddlers to parents—took part in the Christmas Project Evening sponsored by the Reed Street Elementary School P.T.A. (Wheat Ridge, Colorado). Each family worked on one project, such as making Christmas wreaths and other decorations, and then everybody went to the school auditorium for a session of carols.

- **THE TENNESSEE "CONGRESS CARAVAN"** this past summer visited six cities (Memphis, Jackson, Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Johnson City) to bring one-day programs to P.T.A. representatives. Led by state congress chairmen and officers, each program opened with a general meeting at which "caravan purposes" were outlined. Then the delegates divided into three groups—programs, policies and procedures, and parent education—to hear talks, take part in discussions, and ask questions.



● This attention-getting illustration appeared on the flyer sent out by the Tennessee Congress to announce the coming Congress Caravan.

- **"GRADE GROUP MEETINGS"** held by the East Prairie P.T.A. (Skokie, Illinois) give parents a clearer picture of their children's school life. At each meeting during the series, parents of pupils in two of the grades take their children's seats in the classrooms. They are briefed by the teachers on the year's program, learn how parents can help reach the goals, and then are encouraged to ask questions. After "classes are dismissed," parents from all the classrooms meet to hear the school superintendent describe general school policies and the school nurse the school's health program.
- **AS A SERVICE TO P.T.A.'S** in Maryland, a group of "traveling players"—students from the University of Maryland's department of speech and dramatic art—give performances of two of the American Theatre Wing Community Plays dealing with children's behavior, *And You Never Know* and *Tomorrow Is a Day*. Last year the university drama wing traveled more than 2,000 miles to give 36 performances of the plays, which were produced without scenery and makeup and with few props. Each performance is followed by a question-and-answer period during which the audience analyzes the content of the play.

- **THE ATTRACTIVE PROGRAM BOOKLET** of the Crouse P.T.A. (Akron, Ohio) is the same size as the P.T.A. membership card, and the card is its cover. Thus a person who enrolls in this P.T.A. receives not only his membership credentials but also, for ready reference, the names, addresses, and phone numbers of P.T.A. officers, committee chairmen, and room representatives; names of the school staff; the P.T.A. program for the year; and the school-year calendar.
- **PERFECT P.T.A. ATTENDANCE** for twenty-one years—that's the remarkable record of Mrs. Alvin O. Bridgers, member of the Wendell P.T.A. (North Carolina). During the unit's program honoring her for this achievement, it was said that "Mrs. Bridgers' constant enthusiasm for P.T.A. work has been an inspiration to the community, and Wendell is justly proud of her record." Mrs. Bridgers still attends P.T.A. meetings although her children are out of school now.
- **THE ONLY P.T.A.** with a "nonteaching bachelor" as its president is a claim made by the Guthrie P.T.A. (Kentucky). Serving his second year in this office, H. Logan Webb, an insurance man, takes an unusually active interest in school and community affairs.
- **TO ENCOURAGE VERMONT CHILDREN** to read more and better books, the state congress and the Vermont Free Public Library Commission sponsor the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award. Each year a master list of thirty outstanding children's books, selected from all those published during the previous year, is prepared. Teachers of children in grades 4 through 8 urge their pupils to read these books and then to vote for their favorite; the title receiving the most votes is given the award.
- **AN UNUSUAL FUND-RAISING DEVICE**, inaugurated by the Freedom School P.T.A. (Watsonville, California) at its annual carnival, is a pet-placement booth. Persons who needed to find new homes for their kittens or puppies, or who needed a pet for their homes, were invited to place ten-cent "ads" at the booth; twenty cents, though, was the toll for a sales ad. The project, which was enhanced by a give-away supply of pamphlets from the Animal Welfare Association and local veterinarians as well as by a 4-H member's explanation of guide-dog raising, was most successful—it seemed to meet a community need.

► **IN THE DECEMBER "BULLETIN"** we appealed for immediate and concerted P.T.A. action "To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth." Have your senators and congressmen heard your P.T.A.'s voice speaking for these "adequate laws"?

To underscore the December plea, I'd like to quote from *How the Legislation Program of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers Is Authorized*: "This legislation program does not and cannot exist as something apart from the will of the membership concerning children's needs as they have been discovered within the several states. It can be effective only to the degree that the membership supports it by continued study, vigorous efforts to publicize its objectives, and persistent drive for action."

Mrs. Fred L. Bull
National Chairman, Committee on Legislation

COMING: White House Conference on Children and Youth

SEVEN THOUSAND CITIZENS who share a deep concern for the nation's children and youth will gather at the Golden Anniversary White House Conference on Children and Youth, March 27-April 2, 1960. The program they will participate in is a two-pronged approach to the problems and needs of young people. The first approach, called "The World Around the Young," is through an examination of environmental influences. The second, "The Young in the World," surveys the needs and problems of youth from a personal and individual standpoint.

The structure of the Conference provides for:

1. Theme Assemblies—Five Assemblies, meeting concurrently each morning, will be addressed by major speakers. Basically the Assemblies will (a) *appraise* ideals and values in a changing world; (b) *assess* the impact of today's economic, social, and cultural factors on children and youth; and (c) *consider* how the young are *adapting* themselves to such powerful influences as technology, population pressures, and world events.

2. Forums—In a series of eighteen concurrent Forums following the Assemblies, speakers and panelists will divide the two main approaches into eighteen areas of concern, presenting facts and issues against the background of each day's special focus.

3. Workgroups—Participants will gather in more than two hundred afternoon Workgroups to base deliberations on areas related to the day's focus.

Proposals for recommendations reached in the Workgroups will be voted on by the Forums Thursday afternoon and reported to the general session on Friday, the last day of the Conference. Every proposal, every recommendation, and all subsequent action resulting from the Conference will originate in these Workgroups.

All participants will share fully in the creative work of the Conference, each to be assigned to a Theme Assembly, a Forum, and a Workgroup—an assignment that will remain in effect throughout the Conference.

A survey of the sixty-eight topics to be discussed by Workgroups indicates the vast scope of Conference concern. A

few of them may serve to illustrate how inseparable this concern is from fields of parent-teacher interest:

The Effects of Changing Employment Conditions on Family Life and Standards of Living . . . Family Relationships and Their Influence on the Young . . . Resources for Leisure-Time Learning and Recreation . . . Radio and TV and Their Effects on Children and Youth . . . The Significance of Personal Faith for Children and Youth . . . The Obligations of Citizenship . . . Migrant Children and Youth.

Parent-teacher leaders will not only attend and participate in the conference but they have helped to plan it. Mrs. Rollin Brown, immediate past president of the National Congress, serves as chairman of the President's National Committee. On that same committee are Mrs. James C. Parker, National Congress president, and Mrs. Berne S. Jacobsen, president of the Washington Congress. The names of many others who will ably represent the parent-teacher organization will be published in a later issue of the *Bulletin*.

✓ CHECK YOUR CALENDAR

Boy Scout Week, February 7-13.

National Children's Dental Health Week, February 7-13.

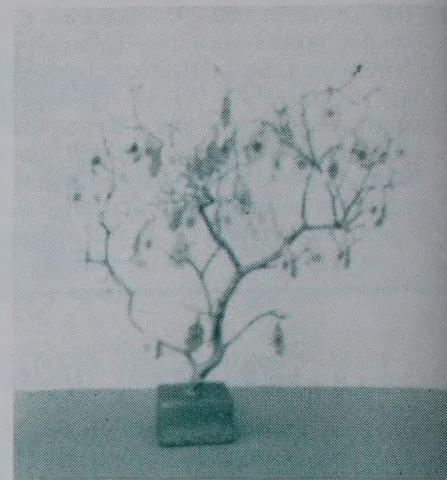
Founders Day 1960, February 17.

(Have you received a copy of the Founders Day 1960 reprint? If not, get one from your state congress office, which also has some stock of last year's reprint on hand.)

Brotherhood Week, February 21-28.

For help in planning observances, write to the National Conference of Christians and Jews, 43 West Fifty-seventh Street, New York 19, New York, or call your local N.C.C.J. office.

1960 National Congress Convention, May 22-25, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



• A Congress unit in California used this two-foot manzanita tree to collect its Founders Day gift. Members sealed their contributions between blue and gold oak leaves and attached them to the tree.

OUR FOUNDERS DAY GIFT

Finds new ways to meet the needs of children.

Organizes new parent-teacher associations.

Unites thousands of communities in work for children.

Nationalizes our local efforts.

Develops parent-teacher leadership.

Enriches the P.T.A. program.

Renews faith in community enterprise.

Stabilizes volunteer effort.

Draws together sources of information on children's needs.

Answers countless perplexing questions for local leaders.

Yields uncountable dividends for youth.

Gives timely aid to leaders and members.

Initiates valuable services for children and youth.

Further the work of the entire Congress.

Takes the guesswork out of P.T.A. techniques.

—MRS. JOHN E. HAYES, a former president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers

Please remember that your P.T.A. Founders Day gift is sent to your state congress, either to the state treasurer or to the state office, as your congress directs.